GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1352
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
MODERNISATION OF MENTAL HOSPITALS
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a comprehensive proposal involving strengthening and modernising of mental hospitals , expansion of district Mental Health Programme and upgradation of psychiatric wing in General Hospitals and Medical Colleges to Government of India for clearance ;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal , including its estimated expenditure and expected benefits to people;

(c) the response of the Government in relation to extending financial support , technical assistance etc. ;

(d) whether the project has been finally cleared ;

(e) whether adequate attention is given to mentally challenged persons regarding their human rights , treatments, livelihood ;

(f) whether the Government is taking steps to achieve the target fixed and the thrust areas in mental health sector identified for the Tenth Five Year Plan as reported in the Annual Report for the year 2002-03;

(g) if so, the details thereof ; and

(h) the average number of patients treated in mental hospitals of the country as on date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d): Government of Kerala have submitted proposals including strengthening and modernizing of three mental hospitals, inclusion of six districts under District Mental Health Programme and upgradation of psychiatric wings in five medical colleges at an estimated expenditure of Rs.14 crores. The proposals mainly related to undertaking civil works, purchase of equipments and providing treatment at the district level. These measures were proposed to improve the mental health care delivery system. The Central Government has sanctioned the release of funds to three medical colleges, and technical appraisal is underway in respect of remaining projects relating to medical colleges/mental hospitals. Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur districts are already covered under the District Mental Health Programme and expansion of District Mental Health Programme to other districts would be considered as per Government Policy.

(e) to (h): The Mental Health Act, 1987 provides safeguards for protecting patients suffering from mental illness from stigmatization and discrimination, provides for creation of Central and State Mental Health Authorities to oversee its implementation. The strategy of the Government is to diagnose mentally ill patients at the early stage and provide treatment through the general health care delivery system. In order to improve the mental health care delivery system, National Mental Health Programme is implemented during the 10th Plan to expand District Mental Health Programme, upgrade mental hospitals and psychiatric units of medical colleges, intensify IEC activities and undertake research and training in the field of mental health.

The details of average number of patients treated in mental hospitals are not centrally maintained.